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15 July 1992

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Forty-sixth session
Agenda item 37
POLICIES OF APARTHEID OF THE
GOVERNMENT OF SOUTH AFRICA

SECURITY COUNCIL
Forty-seventh year

Letter dated 15 July 1992 From the Chairman of the Special Committee against Apartheid to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith the concluding remarks made by His Eminence Archbishop Trevor Huddleston CR at the International Hearing on Political Violence in South Africa and the implementation of the National Peace Accord, co-sponsored by the Special Committee against Apartheid, held in London from 14 to 15 July 1992 (see annex).

I would appreciate it if the text of the present letter and its annex could be circulated as an official document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 37, and the Security Council.

(Signed) Ibrahim GAMBARI
Chairman of the Special
Committee against Apartheid

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ANNEX

Concluding remarks made by Archbishop Trevor Huddleston CR on 15 July 1992 at the International Hearing on Political Violence in South Africa

Implementation of the National Peace Accord

This International Hearing on Political Violence in South Africa has taken place at a most decisive moment in history - we are at a turning-point in the efforts of the people of South Africa and the international community to transform South Africa from an apartheid State to a democratic and non-racial society.

The International Hearing was convened with three objectives:

(a) To receive evidence on political violence and the threat it poses to the democratic transformation of South Africa;

(b) To assess the initiatives which have been taken to stop the violence and to consider the contribution which the international community can make;

(c) To alert international public opinion to the issues at stake.

The International Hearing has clearly achieved these objectives. It has served as a unique opportunity for the international community to learn the truth about political violence from a diverse range of experts and witnesses from South Africa, as well as from written memoranda, reports and other documentation.

There is a common understanding that the root cause of the violence in South Africa is the system of apartheid and that it will only be the creation of a new united, non-racial and democratic South Africa that will ensure a climate in which peace can flourish and the culture of violence can be destroyed.

It is self-evident that political violence has now reached such levels that it seriously threatens the prospects for the democratic transformation of South Africa. It has led to the breakdown of the negotiating process taking place through the Convention for a Democratic South Africa and is of such a character that it would certainly prevent democratic elections taking place in many parts of South Africa.

The International Hearing provided an opportunity to identify the key issues which need to be addressed so that a climate can be created in which bona fide negotiations can take place as envisaged in the United Nations Declaration on South Africa. The most important of these issues are:

(a) The continued programme of covert operations being undertaken by the South African regime;

(b) The existence of special units, including foreign forces, such as Koevoet and Battalion 32, which are directly linked to the promotion and instigation of violence;

(c) The lack of confidence by the Black majority in the police and security forces which are perceived as an instrument of repression against those seeking democratic change;

(d) The failure to investigate thoroughly acts of political violence and to bring prosecutions against those involved, including the failure to provide protection of witnesses;

(e) The cover-up of cases in which members of the security forces are involved in instigating and fomenting political violence;

(f) The transformation of many single-sex hostels into bases from which attacks are carried out;

(g) The failure to introduce effective controls to ban the carrying of dangerous weapons and the refusal by the police to implement existing controls.

The primary responsibility for the political violence must rest with the South African regime, since it has failed to take effective measures to end it.

The National Peace Accord and the Goldstone Commission were envisaged as mechanisms by which these issues could be addressed, yet they have been effectively subverted by the South African regime. Indeed the South African regime has ignored many of the recommendations of the Goldstone Commission.

Evidence presented to the International Hearing confirmed that the objectives of the National Peace Accord have not been achieved and therefore special initiatives are now required, including the involvement of the international community, in order to achieve an end to political violence.

The United Nations, together with other appropriate intergovernmental bodies including the Organization of African Unity, the Commonwealth and the European Community, are already seized of this issue.

Decisive action is now required. There are three immediate and urgent challenges:

Firstly, the international community must intervene, through the establishment of appropriate mechanisms, to ensure not only the effective monitoring of political violence which would require wide investigative and other powers, but also the means to end the violence;

Secondly, the international community must apply the maximum possible pressure onto the South African regime so that it takes effective steps to stop the violence on the basis of the positions set out by the liberation movements, as well as the religious bodies, trade unions and other democratic organizations;

Thirdly, in order to prevent the South African regime from continuing to frustrate the process to establish a new democratic order, the international community must participate fully in the process, as provided for in the United Nations Declaration on South Africa.

There can be no prospect of bona fide negotiations taking place as envisaged in the United Nations Declaration on South Africa, unless the international community now takes such action.

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Forty-sixth session
Agenda item 33
QUESTION OF PALESTINE

SECURITY COUNCIL
Forty-seventh year

Letter dated 16 July 1992 from the Chairman of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People addressed to the Secretary-General

In my capacity as Chairman of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People, I wish to draw your urgent attention to the decision by Israel, the occupying Power, to place Al-Najah University under siege and to impose a curfew on the entire city of Nablus.

According to a letter received from the Higher Islamic Committee in Jerusalem, the Israeli authorities have surrounded Al-Najah University in Nablus with military force for the third consecutive day. The letter further indicates that approximately 3,000 students, faculty staff, women and children have been under siege on campus with no food and water allowed to the campus.

The Washington Post reported on 16 July 1992, that the Israeli Army had imposed a curfew on the entire city of Nablus. Check-points were set up on roads leading to the city and army units patrolled the streets. The entire city is under siege.

The Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People is gravely concerned at the increasing imposition of harsh collective punishment against the population of the occupied Palestinian territory, such as curfews, university closings and other repressive measures in violation of the Fourth Geneva Convention and the resolutions of the Security Council and the General Assembly.

The Committee urgently appeals to you, as well as to all the parties concerned, to see that all the necessary measures are taken in order to induce Israel, the occupying Power, to abide by its obligations under international law and the resolutions of the United Nations.

I should be grateful if you would have the text of the present letter circulated as a document of the General Assembly under agenda item 33, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Kéba Birane CISSE
Chairman of the Committee
on the Exercise of the
Inalienable Rights of the
Palestinian People

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ORIGINAL: ARABIC

GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Forty-sixth session
Agenda item 33
QUESTION OF PALESTINE

SECURITY COUNCIL
Forty-seventh year

LETTER DATED 17 JULY 1992 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF TUNISIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

In my capacity as Chairman of the Arab Group for the month of July 1992, I have the honour to transmit herewith the text of the statement issued on 16 July 1992 by the General Secretariat of the League of Arab States concerning the siege of Al-Najah University in Nablus by the Israeli occupation authorities and the ban on movement in the town of Nablus and in the neighbouring camps which has been imposed by those authorities.

I should be grateful if you would arrange for the text of this letter and its annex to be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 33, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Hamadi KHOUINI
Ambassador
Permanent Representative
Chairman of the Arab Group

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Annex

STATEMENT BY THE LEAGUE OF ARAB STATES CONCERNING THE SIEGE OF AL-NAJAH UNIVERSITY IN NABLUS BY THE ISRAELI OCCUPATION AUTHORITIES

The General Secretariat of the League of Arab States is following with the utmost concern the siege of the Palestinian Al-Najah University in Nablus by the Israeli occupation authorities and the ban on movement in the town and in the neighbouring camps imposed by those authorities, as well as the raids on the University campus carried out by those authorities, who opened fire on students who were demonstrating in protest against interference by the occupation authorities in elections organized by the student union.

The General Secretariat of the League of Arab States condemns these arbitrary acts, which have left several Palestinian students wounded and which are part of a series of acts of aggression committed against Palestinian institutions and establishments and against Palestinians, and it calls upon the international community as represented within the United Nations and bodies dealing with human rights to take immediate action to induce Israel to cease such arbitrary practices, which constitute a flagrant violation of human rights instruments and the fourth Geneva Convention of 1949, and to lift the siege of the Palestinian Al-Najah University in Nablus.

The League of Arab States draws the attention of world public opinion and of the parties to the regional peace process to the danger which such practices pose to the peace efforts that are under way and the adverse effects which they have on those efforts, which offer hope to the peoples of the region and to the entire world.

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20 July 1992

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Forty-sixth session
Agenda item 20
ADMISSION OF NEW MEMBERS TO THE
UNITED NATIONS

SECURITY COUNCIL
Forty-seventh year

Letter dated 16 July 1992 from the Permanent Representative of Sri Lanka to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to inform you that the Government of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka has decided to accord formal recognition to the Republic of Georgia with immediate effect.

I should be glad if you would arrange to have the text of the present letter circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 20, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Dr. Stanley KALPAGE
Permanent Representative

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